

HONORING ADAM AUKAMP AND ALL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND STAFF MEMBERS OF WEST CREEK HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR HELPING AFGHANISTAN STUDENTS

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the students, teachers, and staff members of West Creek Hills Elementary School, located in my Congressional District, for a very successful school supply drive for students in Afghanistan. In particular, I want to recognize 4th grader Adam Shea Aukamp for bringing the idea to West Creek Hills' Principal, Steve Yanni, and helping to organize the drive.

Adam came up with the idea for the school supply drive after reading a story in a newspaper for children that focused on U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan. The story highlighted how many Afghan children do not have enough school supplies, such as pencils, pens, crayons, etc. Adam decided he wanted to collect supplies to help Afghan children. Adam's mother, Barbara Sheaffer, contacted the Pennsylvania National Guard and connected with a colonel stationed in Afghanistan. The colonel learned through an interpreter that backpacks were also needed. Adam added this to his list.

Adam wrote a letter to his fellow students asking them to support the project and donate supplies. He and a few friends, including Drew Roman, Wesley Marshall, Jacob Doll, and Nicholas Minnich, created some posters and placed them around the school. They also visited classrooms to promote the project. Adam made announcements over the school's intercom system, first announcing the project, and then providing updates on the donation progress.

The drive lasted from November 8 through November 19, 2010. In the end, the school collected: 12 pencil boxes, 37 backpacks, 113 notebooks and writing tablets, 139 crayon boxes, 343 pens, and, 1,577 pencils.

Once again, congratulations to Adam Aukamp and all members of the West Creek Hills Elementary School community. Their efforts are an inspiration to all Americans and stand as a wonderful testament to the unparalleled generosity of our Nation's citizens, young and old.

A TRIBUTE TO ELISHA ACKIE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Elisha Ackie.

Elisha Ackie is one of those members of our society who has always been committed to our community's needs and dedicated to helping others; she is a songbird of religious verses and music, who celebrates that the Lord is her Shepherd.

Elisha Ackie was born on December 14, 1903 in Carriacou, Grenada, West Indies and

migrated to New York in 1988. She is the proud mother of Jean Ackie, grandmother of two and great-grandmother of eight and great-great-grandmother of two. Her long life is a testament to her legacy of family values and inter-generational family commitment. Even on the dawn of her 107th birthday, she continues to bring her family together for occasional dinners and gatherings.

Elisha Ackie is commended for adding joy and flavor to our 10th Congressional District in New York. She is also celebrated for the many stylish hats that adorn her beautiful face. This role model of work ethic, family life and sharing of daily bread will most certainly ensure that upcoming generations of her family, and those whose lives they touch, will continue to be fruitful members of our American society.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Elisha Ackie.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CARNELL HAMPTON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute a spiritual and community leader as he retires from the ministry. Reverend Carnell Hampton has been a tremendous light in Clarendon County during his 45 years at Melina Presbyterian Church and his daily guidance will be sorely missed.

Reverend Hampton grew up in the Mayesville community of Sumter County, and graduated from the historic Goodwill Paracholal School. He chose to return close to home following his graduation from seminary at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina to serve at Melina Presbyterian Church. He built the church into the center of the Gable community, expanding its membership and its missions. He has lived next door to the church and been an active member of the community throughout his career. Over his more than four decades in the ministry, Reverend Hampton has made innumerable contributions to the community, the state, the Presbytery, the Synod and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

I want to personally thank Reverend Hampton for his friendship and support. Just six weeks after my election to Congress in 1992, he and the Melina Presbyterian Church Family welcomed me into their worship service and congratulated me on behalf of the community. His care and concern for the community extends beyond the church walls, and he let me know he expected me to represent the community well. I have worked hard to meet his expectations.

Reverend Hampton is married to Carrie Edwards a native of Spartanburg, South Carolina and the couple has one son Jermaine Carnell, a daughter-in-law Hollie, and two grandchildren Nathan and August.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Hampton on his retirement. He has touched countless lives and left an indelible mark on this community. His service to Clarendon County and the Presbyterian Church will be long remembered, and hard to replace. I offer my best wishes as he enters this new phase

of his life, and know that he will continue to be an important part of the community.

SO BRILLIANT, THIS, IN HONOR OF A FALLEN HERO, SGT. JESSE MICHAEL BALTHASER, 1ST MARINE DIVISION, 3RD MARINE COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION, THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, at the loss of one of America's and Ohio's best, Sergeant Jesse Balthaser of Hilltop, of The United States Marine Corps, 1st Marine Division, 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion. Heroically, Sergeant Balthaser died when he stepped on an IED on September 4th during a fire fight in Helmand province, Afghanistan. This magnificent young man has done several tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was getting ready to come home in November to witness the birth of his first child, already named Regan Michael, in December to Erin McSweeney his girl friend and future wife. Words can not ease their pain, and of that his parents Richard and Nancy Balthaser who have now lost their only child in service to our country. Our prayers and our thoughts go out to them in this time of such sorrow. Our nation owes a great debt to all the families and their loved ones of the Armed Forces, who teach us, That freedom, surely is not free. Bless them all.

So Brilliant, This

So . . .

So Brilliant This!

As is, as was Jesse's gift!

That Last Full Measure! That Oh So Such Golden Treasure!

As all in his short lifetime defined . . .

Of One's Life, As Is This . . . So Brilliant, in time . . .

While, all in the darkness of war . . .

While, all in a heart and soul . . . of such faith to insure . . .

To insure our freedom, but, bought and paid for!

Yes Jesse, but with your most precious life! Oh yes you Jesse, so shone with your most brilliant light . . .

All in your magnificent shades of green . . .

As there you were, our son so bravely seen!

Oh yes, you United States Marine!

Where Strength In Honor, So Convenes!

As so gallantly, you so ventured forth . . .

All out upon death's course . . .

As for us, you walked through The Valley of Death . . .

With a heart of courage full, and clenched fist!

As America's Son! As on high, as your courage crested!

As all for God and Country, your most courageous heart could not so be stilled!

And your United States Marines, Ohio's Best as you moved onward still!

As our nation with your sacred sacrifice, all of ours lives have so blessed!

As a Mother and a Father cries, as their only son has died . . .

As for them, we now so weep . . . deep down in hearts, so very deep!

As a future wife's, great love has been lost . . .

And their new child to be born out of love, will bare the cost . . .

But, hush little baby don't you cry!